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->From the Editor’s Keyboard "Saying it like it is!"
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It’s time to welcome the unofficial start of summer! Yes folks, it’s the long Memorial Day weekend (here in the U.S.); and we’re starting it off with a warm bang! I’m looking forward to throwing a few steaks on the grill, and making sure that the beers are stocked-up in the fridge! Hopefully, you all have similar plans!

So, sit back, relax, and have a cold one on me! I apologize for such a small issue this week, but it was really slow for tech news this week. Some times it just doesn’t happen for us!

Until next time...

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Atari/Mac OS X

by Francois Le Coat

Hi,

ARAnyM http://aranym.org/ is the ATARI GNU/GPL virtual machine. The *miniPack* which is a minimal configuration of ARAnyM, is updated with new 0.9.6 version of EmuTOS. It runs on Macintosh:

http://eureka.atari.org/miniPack.zip

The 1.0.2 version of ‘MacAranym JIT‘ application runs from Mac OS X Leopard (10.5) up to Mac OS X El Capitan (10.11).

Here is a screenshot http://eureka.atari.org/aranym.gif

Comments are welcome. Enjoy, it’s is yours =)

--
François LE COAT
Author of Eureka 2.12 (2D Graph Describer, 3D Modeller)
http://eureka.atari.org/

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->In This Week's Gaming Section - Two New Xbox One Consoles on the Way?
"""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""" First Xbox One Virtual Reality Game in 2017?

The PS4 Is Most Popular Game Console in the W
orld!

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->A-ONE's Game Console Industry News - The Latest Gaming News!
""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""

There May Be Two New Xbox One Consoles on the Way

Already tired of that Xbox One you ve got? Good news: Microsoft
is apparently preparing two new ones to put in your living room.

That s according to anonymous sources who told gaming site Kotaku
that not just one but two new versions of the Xbox One are in the
works.

One, expectedly, is described as a cheaper, smaller Xbox One
a slim version of the current Xbox One, basically, which makes
perfect sense given the history of game consoles. Sony s been
giving its game consoles this kind of treatment since the original
PlayStation, and Microsoft revised the Xbox 360 twice before
moving on to the Xbox One.

More interesting, however, is the second new Xbox One that
Microsoft is reportedly working on.

The mysterious second console is reportedly codenamed Scorpio,
and is said to be released in 2017. So, how s it different from
the current Xbox One? Reportedly, it's more powerful powerful
enough to run the Oculus Rift VR headset, which currently
requires a pretty hefty PC (both in terms of horsepower and
cost) to run and may have a ton of storage (2TB).

Maybe more important than any of this is what it could mean for
the bigger picture future of the Xbox. Sources told Kotaku that
the Xbox as a platform, like Apple s iPhone or Google s Android
may move toward a more phone-like approach to new versions.

Think of it like this: Every few years, Microsoft could release a
slightly more powerful Xbox that works with previous versions and
adds the ability to play games that are even better looking.

That said, all of this is unconfirmed by Microsoft; the company

didn t respond to a request for comment. Xbox head Phil Spencer, though, has indicated previously that the Xbox platform is going to move toward a more iterative release process. Here s Spencer speaking during Microsoft s Xbox Spring Showcase event in February 2016:

When you look at the console space, I believe we will see more hardware innovation in the console space than we ve ever seen. You ll actually see us come out with new hardware capability during a generation allowing the same games to run backward and forward compatible because we have a Universal Windows Application running on top of the Universal Windows Platform that allows us to focus more and more on hardware innovation without invalidating the games that run on that platform.

One thing s for sure: With Sony s PlayStation 4 having long ago taken the sales lead over Microsoft s Xbox One, Microsoft s in a bind. The company tried dropping the Xbox One s price below that of the PlayStation 4, which worked for a little while before Sony retook the lead. Sony has otherwise led console sales with its PlayStation 4 month-after-month for much of the life of both game consoles.

The report from Kotaku also notes that the smaller Xbox One is likely to be revealed in the next few weeks at the company s E3 2016 press conference (an annual trade show for video games in Los Angeles). Which is to say it shouldn t be too long before we find out how legit this all is.

Check out the full report on Kotaku!

Report Claims First Xbox One Virtual Reality Game is Coming in 2017

An unnamed but major development studio is working on a virtual reality game for the Xbox One, Ars Technica reports, fueling speculation surrounding a possible hardware revision.

The Xbox One does not currently feature support for virtual reality headsets, but rumors from earlier this week suggest that Microsoft is planning to introduce Oculus Rift compatibility when revised Xbox One hardware hits retail in 2017.

According to Ars Technica s report, the game in question featured the acronym VR in its working title, and is also in development for the PlayStation 4 and PCs. The game is reportedly built with virtual reality headsets in mind, leading Ars to believe that this isn t merely a VR-compatible game that happens to have a more traditional Xbox One version.

Though it did not divulge the name of the game, Ars notes that it is part of an established, long-running franchise developed by a well-known European studio. The title is expected to be revealed at next month s Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles ahead of a multiplatform release in 2017.

Rumors regarding a forthcoming Xbox One hardware upgrade reignited this week when multiple anonymous sources spoke to Kotaku and

Polygon about Scorpio, the alleged codename for a revised Xbox One console hitting retail in 2017. Reportedly boasting a faster GPU, the Scorpio model will be over four times more powerful than the current Xbox One, according to Polygon s sources.

Anonymous developers additionally claim that Scorpio is technically capable of supporting the Oculus Rift VR headset and compatible games. Neither Microsoft nor Oculus responded to requests for details regarding a rumored partnership that would introduce Oculus Rift support for the Xbox One. Acknowledging but not confirming this week s reports, Xbox division head Phil Spencer indicated that Microsoft s hardware plans will be unveiled at E3 on June 13.

Rival console manufacturer Sony is also planning a hardware revision for its PlayStation 4, according to anonymously sourced reports. The rumored PlayStation 4 NEO model is believed to feature a faster CPU and GPU, along with support for 4K resolutions. To date, Sony has not commented regarding the possibility of upgraded console hardware.

The PlayStation 4 Is The Most Popular Game Console in The World

Sony s just passed 40 million PlayStation 4 consoles sold since launch in November 2013.

That makes PlayStation 4 the top-selling game console in the world at the moment, over Microsoft s Xbox One (~21 million) and Nintendo s Wii U (~13 million).

About one-tenth of those owners are new owners, as of the past few months: Sony sold just over 4 million PlayStation 4 consoles between early January 2016 and May 22, 2016. That puts sales in the neighborhood of 1 million sold every month, which keeps it locked in as the fastest-selling PlayStation game console of all time.

This isn t a new position for Sony s PlayStation 4   the console has been on top (in terms of sales) since it launched, more or less. There s been the occasional blip, with Xbox One outselling PlayStation 4 here and there, but the PS4 has largely dominated sales (and the attention of millions) since it first launched in November 2013.

How far ahead is Sony compared to the competition? Pretty far, at this point.

We know that Nintendo s console, the Wii U, is selling terribly. Compared to Sony s 40 million PlayStation 4 consoles, Nintendo had sold just under 13 million when it last reported numbers back in March 2016. Worse? The Wii U has been available for a full year longer than the PlayStation 4.

As far as Microsoft goes, the company stopped reporting worldwide sales numbers for the Xbox One many months ago. Instead, Microsoft trumpets its usage numbers   how many hours people spend playing Xbox One games, for example. The closest we have to numbers is an

approximation based on something that game publisher EA said during an investor call, which put the Xbox One in the neighborhood of 20 million sold (this was back in late January 2016, so we d expect another one to three million sold since that was reported).

With Sony s PlayStation VR headset launching this fall, and great-looking, highly-anticipated games like The Last Guardian launching on the PlayStation 4 this year, it s unlikely that Sony will lose its pole position anytime soon.

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A-ONE’s Headline News
The Latest in Computer Technology News
Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Facebook Denies Bias in Trending Topics, But Vows Changes Anyway

Facebook responded today to official queries regarding its Trending Topics feature, specifically allegations made over the last few weeks that the team responsible for it was deliberately suppressing conservative views and arbitrarily elevating stories with little oversight.

In a press release issued publicly and in a letter (PDF) sent directly to Senator John Thune (R-SD), Facebook denied the allegations, but nevertheless announced a number of changes to internal processes that should help appease critics.

    Our investigation has revealed no evidence of systematic political bias in the selection or prominence of stories included in the Trending Topics feature. In fact, our analysis indicated that the rates of approval of conservative and liberal topics are virtually identical in Trending Topics.

    At the same time, as you would expect with an inquiry of this nature, our investigation could not exclude the possibility of isolated improper actions or unintentional bias in the implementation of our guidelines or policies.

Specifically, Facebook looked at how and when stories were boosted, blacklisted, or submitted to injection, or correction and found that rates have been virtually identical for liberal and conservative topics.

Senate committee asks Facebook to answer questions about its Trending Topics
Facebook now directly denies report of biased trends, says there’s no evidence
Part of the problem, as described by the anonymous ex-Trending Topics curators whose testimony informed the accusations, was a lack of oversight and plain bad management.

Among the changes to the program are additional controls and oversight around the review team and presumably further oversight of the oversight team itself, since watching the watchers is highly important in a situation like this, with an editorial team encapsulated within a decidedly non-editorial environment.

In addition to the extra red tape, the process of finding and selecting Trending Topics items is getting a makeover:

The huge list of RSS feeds relied on by reviewers will be retired though what will replace it was not specified.
Reviewers will not be able to simply assign an importance level based on its position in the top 10 news outlets (a list which, per the item above, will no longer even exist).
Facebook s Help Center page on Trending Topics will be updated to better reflect the feature anyone who thought it was all up to some AI or algorithm will be disabused of that notion.

If you were curious about the exact process by which a story goes from hashtag or local news to Trending Topic, read the letter to Sen. Thune; it contains lots of previously unknown details, though many will now be obsolete. Specific allegations of bias for instance, that stories about Glenn Beck (who wrote an interesting take on his own meeting with Facebook on this topic) were suppressed are also addressed.

Senator Thune issued his own statement today as well, praising Facebook s handling of the issue but at the same time getting a couple jabs in.

The seriousness with which Facebook has treated these allegations and its desire to serve as an open platform for all viewpoints is evident and encouraging and I look forward to the company s actions meeting its public rhetoric.

Facebook s description of the methodology it uses for determining the trending content it highlights for users is far different from and more detailed than what it offered prior to our questions.

In other words: why did it take a major potential scandal for Facebook to offer details on how this high-visibility feature worked? A FAQ on the topic might have avoided the controversy altogether.

No further action appears to be necessary, Sen. Thune concluded: While the [Senate Commerce] committee remains open to new information on this matter, transparency not regulation remains the goal.

Norton Antivirus Has A Gaping Security Flaw

A security researcher has discovered a "bug" in Symantec antivirus software, which affects "the core Symantec Antivirus

Engine used in most Symantec and Norton branded Antivirus products." I say "bug" because it’s less bug, and more a gaping security flaw that makes it incredibly easy to hack any PC, Mac or Linux box running Symantec software.

The flaw (spotted by The Register) was found by Tavis Ormandy, a white-hat hacker whose previous work has involved hacking internet-connected scales. The Symantec bug is to do with how the antivirus engine scans code, in particular an old compression tool.

The result is that if a hacker sends a carefully formatted file via email (or just a web link), all the target computer has to do is receive and scan the email - the user doesn’t even have to open the file or link. The hacker then gets root access to the target computer, meaning he owns the machine. As Ormandy succinctly put it, "this is about as bad as it can possibly get."

Symantec is aware of the bug, and there’s already a fix being pushed. If you use Symantec or Norton antivirus, you should run the Live Update tool, and check for patches.

The flaw itself is due to a buffer overflow, the same kind of programming bug that caused the infamous Heartbleed Bug. But what makes this particular flaw dangerous isn’t the bug itself, it’s where in the system the code is unpacked. On Windows machines, Symantec is unpacking potential malware directly into the kernel, which as one Twitter user pointed out, is a really bad idea:

https://twitter.com/riskybusiness/status/732374512449277952

What lessons can we learn from this? Well, as any compsci professor would probably explain, suspicious code should be examined in a walled-off sandbox, not the system kernel. For non-programmers, the lesson is much simpler: uninstall Norton or Symantec, get better about not opening suspicious files, and please, remember to do your backups.

Three UK Moves Ahead With Network-Level Ad-Blocking Plans

Three UK inked a deal with Shine to test out complete ad blocking for 24 hours. Customers of the carrier will see the results this June, and the trial could be a game changer for the British ad market.

Three UK announced that it will start a trial network-level ad-blocking campaign in the country.

The company touted the move in February, as the carrier signed a partnership with Shine, an enterprise that is familiar with the practice.

Users should expect the trial, which Three says will last for 24 hours, to take place on the third week of June.

Customers will be contacted beforehand and will receive the option to sign up through the main website of the carrier. Shine boasts

that it has the means to ad-block "all of the mobile Web," which means display ads on browsers as well as display ads in apps.

Three’s chief marketing officer, Tom Malleschitz, thinks that the current ad model is flawed.

He explains that the existing practices frustrate customers, gulp up data plans and are even dangerous for users’ privacy.

The network enumerates three reasons why mobile ads should be stopped. For one thing, customers end up paying for the data eaten up by ads. For another, subscribers need more security at their disposal, as some marketers use ads to track people without their consent. Lastly, advertising itself could use an upgrade in focus and relevance.

Shine did not go into a lot of detail when explaining how the ad blocking will happen. The company mentions that its "machines" will handle deep packet inspection (DPI) inside the network. Shine notes that "real-time analysis, artificial intelligence and algorithms" will be deployed so that the original Web page or app will keep running while the ads are being blocked.

It should be noted that a big number of Internet sites rely on advertising revenue to keep afloat, and axing ads can literally shut them down.

However, ad blockers see surging popularity among the more conscious of users. Adblock Plus, for example, is so popular that firms are paying its developers to get "whitelisted" from it. Three’s cooperation with Shine could mean that more people will start seeing the advantages of using ad blockers.

The impact on the UK advertising market could be significant if Three’s rivals EE and O2 start to implement similar programs.

Shine did mention that it has been in talks with other networks, but refused to go into details.

New Windows 10 Security Update Proactively Hunts Down Viruses When Your PC Is Idle

Windows 10 is building in an additional line of defense against malware with some new features for Windows Defender, Microsoft s pre-installed antivirus.

The update is called Limited Periodic Scanning, and was revealed as part of Microsoft s Insider Preview Build 14352 this week. It allows users to run Windows Defender simultaneously to their own antivirus software. Defender will run its own periodic scan of your computer to further bolster the protections in place with other programs.

If the feature catches any malware you ll be notified through a standard Windows 10 notification but in most cases, Windows Defender will act automatically on mitigating the malware in the background.

Limited Periodic Scanning, in theory, will only kickstart when your computer is idle or not in the middle of some important task. It uses the Automatic Maintenance feature to select the most opportune time to scan, according to the announcement.

There have been a number of complaints against Microsoft over Windows 10 updates commencing in the middle of important work so the company will want to avoid such a fate again.

Limited Periodic Scanning is only for use by consumers so far, said Deepak Manohar from Microsoft Malware Protection Center, but the company is exploring possible enterprise applications for the feature.

The feature is currently only available for Windows Insiders and is turned off by default if you re not already using Windows Defender. To turn on Limited Periodic Scanning, go to Settings, Update & Security and Windows Defender, and then Turn Limited Periodic Scanning on.

Microsoft has placed a big emphasis on security for Windows 10, claiming it is the most secure operating system available on the market right now. The CIO of the Pentagon, Terry Halvorsen has even publicly gushed over the security of the OS and urged his employees to use it on their personal devices. However, Windows 10 has still faced many concerns and criticisms over its attitude to user privacy by collecting and monitoring a huge amount of data.

How To Escape That Forced Windows 10 Upgrade You Mistakenly Agreed

On Monday, hordes of angry Windows users pelted Microsoft with complaints about being lured into upgrading their PCs over the weekend. For months, Microsoft has been urging users running Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 to upgrade to Windows 10 before the free offer expires on July 29. But the series of dialog boxes and other messages that Microsoft has sent users have become increasingly deceptive, burying the opt-out links amid text that appears to commit users to the upgrade.

Normally, closing the dialog box by clicking the red box in the upper righthand corner automatically opted out. Over the weekend, clicking that red box started opting users in to the upgrade.

That not only flies in the face of years of user-interface design, it contradicts Microsoft s own advice for dealing with suspicious dialog boxes. Never click Agree or OK to close a window that you suspect might be spyware, states Microsoft s page on viruses and malware. Instead, click the red x in the corner of the window or press Alt + F4 on your keyboard to close a window.

The company was unable to explain how closing a dialog box translated into a consumer s desire to upgrade to Windows 10. Microsoft representatives pointed out, however, that if you do mistakenly trigger the upgrade, you should still have an

opportunity to opt out before it begins.

Microsoft described the new procedure on an updated support page, which notes that users will be given "an additional opportunity for cancelling or rescheduling the upgrade."

According to Microsoft s support page, Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 users are still going to see those annoying popup windows that urge you to upgrade to Windows 10, where the only opt-out option is buried: Click here to change upgrade schedule or cancel scheduled upgrade.

If you do click the close button and accidentally trigger the upgrade, you re still not totally committed, Microsoft claims. Based on customer feedback, in the most recent version of the Get Windows 10 (GWX) app, we confirm the time of your scheduled upgrade and provide you an additional opportunity for cancelling or rescheduling the upgrade, Microsoft says.

Both the confirmation and the additional opportunity appear to be the same thing: a popup that will emerge from the Get Windows 10 (GWX) icon on your taskbar, like so:

get windows 10 reminder

Here s one opportunity to opt out of Windows 10.

Note the link within the popup to reschedule or cancel the upgrade. It s unclear how that long the popup actually hangs around, but it s certainly no good to anyone if it appears in the middle of the night or quickly vanishes.

If you’ve accidentally triggered the Windows 10 upgrade, you ll receive a second, final alert: a 15-minute countdown timer that, again, is pretty useless if the upgrade takes place during a time when you re away from your PC.
windows 10 15 minute reminder

According to Microsoft, there s also a second opportunity to opt out, part of the GWX app on your taskbar   the same Windows icon that appears in the reminder popup, above.

Before you actually click that app, however, you ll need to make sure you don t have any existing GWX dialog boxes open, because you re essentially relaunching the app. According to Microsoft, once you open the GWX app, you ll either see messages saying Windows 10 is a Recommended Update for this PC, Microsoft recommends upgrading to Windows 10, or You signed up for Windows 10, and it s ready!

This is where the choices begin to resemble a "Choose Your Own Adventure book, and not a customer-friendly opt-out process. You may notice that the Windows 10 is a Recommended Update for this PC dialog is the same popup window that, when closed via the red button, began this whole process. Don t make the same mistake twice!

If you wish to opt out of Windows 10, click the cancel scheduled upgrades link.

For the first two options, to opt out of Windows 10, look for and click the following link in the dialog box: Click here to change upgrade schedule or cancel scheduled upgrade. (Microsoft says that you can also click the red X to opt out, but we ve heard this line before.) If you receive a popup that says, You re set! click the link at the bottom to opt out, Microsoft says.

For the screen, You signed up for Windows 10, and it s ready! you should see a link to change upgrade schedule or cancel scheduled upgrade. In any event, if you want to get rid of Windows 10, you ll want to end up on the screen titled Cancel your Windows 10 upgrade.

Hopefully, this screen means that you re out of the woods.

So does this mean that the Windows 10 upgrade monster has finally been slain? Well, as of revision 12.0 of Microsoft s support document, yes. Hopefully things won t change.

Microsoft s reminders, however, won t end (until possibly after the July 29 cutoff) until you take the following steps:

Right-click (or press and hold) the Taskbar, then select Properties.
On the Taskbar tab, go to the Notification area and select Customize....
In the Notification Area Icons window, for the GWX icon, select Hide icon and notifications.

Note that you have the option of only showing the notifications without the icon, but why would you want that? In any event, that should end Microsoft s Windows 10 nagging for good.

As we ve noted before, two third-party options pledge to block Windows 10 from being added to your computer: Never10, a simple utility, or GWX Control Panel, a more complex program that does the same thing. Both attempt to block relevant updates that force the upgrade, while allowing everything else through.

The closer we get to the end of the free upgrade period at the end of July, the more desperate Microsoft seems to be to push the installed base of Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 users on to Windows 10. By repurposing the close button to trigger the upgrade cycle, Microsoft is wandering close to accusations of clickjacking, which traditionally have used transparent windows or other trickery to launch malware or simply further the spread of Twitter worms.

Microsoft still hasn t said that why it chose this route, but it’s not surprising that users see it as a low-down, dirty trick. It sullies the goodwill Microsoft engendered with its Insider program, the free upgrade, and its other work with the Windows community.

Neither is it helpful that there s only a labyrinthine, complicated process for Windows 7 and Windows 8.1 users to opt out of Windows 10. It s small consolation that there actually is one, however. Let s hope it remains.

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